State/U.T	Range of minimum wages (Per day)
26. Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 27.00 to Rs. 63.19
27. Karnataka	Rs. 26.00 to Rs. 68.38
28. Kerala	Rs. 30.00 to Rs. 164.77
29. Tamil Nadu	Rs. 35.57 to Rs. 88.73
30. Pondicherry	Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 65.00 p.d.
31. Lakshadweep	Rs. 45.00
Central Sphere	Rs. 46.22 to Rs. 84.12

Fund Reserves in ESIC

828. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total funds in reserve held by ESIC;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate return are not being obtained by ESIC;

(c) whether any alternatives are being examined to get the best returns for funds of ESIC;

(d) what are the general policies for investments made by ESIC; and

(e) steps proposed to improve yield of ESIC investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As on 31.3.99 an amount of Rs. 4810.03 Crore was held by the ESIC invarious reserve funds.

(b) to (e) Under rule 27 of the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950, all monies belonging to the ESI Fund and not immediately required for expenses are required to be invested in Government securities, or in securities mentioned in Section 20 of-the Indian Trusts Act or as

fixed deposits in the Reserve or the State Bank of India etc. However, on an earlier directive of the Ministry of Finance, the surplus ESI Fund amounting to Rs. 3017.55 Crore has been invested in the Special Deposit Account of the Central Government and the same is earning interest at the rate of 12% per annum. On demand of the ESIC, the matter has been considered in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the ESIC has since been permitted to make investment of the surplus fund as provided in rule 27 of the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950. Keeping in view the safety of funds and for obtaining maximum possible return, the surplus funds are being invested by the ESIC accordingly.

Medical Problems of Workers

829. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether ESIC has any long term objective with regard to attending to medical problems of workers, who are insured persons;

(b) if so, what are these objectives;

(c) whether there is any proposal to build large super speciality hospitals in some key States by ESIC;

(d) to what extent has ESIC fulfilled the objectives of attending to all the medical requirements of insured persons;

(e) if not, whether ESIC will review its present method of functioning; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) The objective of the ESI Scheme has been and continues to be to provide certain cash benefits namely the sickness benefit, maternity benefit, disablement benefit, dependent benefit and to provide for medical care to the insured persons (IPs) and their families. Under Section 58 of the ESI Act, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide for insured persons reasonable medical, surgical and obstetric treatment. Accordingly medical care is being